

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGUI 02080 281519Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----066066 281615Z /43  
R 281025Z SEV 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9295  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 2080

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, CT  
SUBJECT: BOKASSA CORONATION

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR PICQUETCHAS TOLD ME IN STRINT CONFIDENCE OF  
CURRENT FRENCH EFFORTS TO PERSUADE BOKASSA TO MODIFY PLANS FOR  
J

HIS CORONATION. ACCORDING TO PICQUET, PRESIDENT GISCARD, THROUGH  
HIS AFRICAN ADVISOR JOURNIAC, HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH  
IVORIAN PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET WITH THE IDEA THAT THE CORONATION  
SHOULD BE MADE INTO A STRICTLY CENTRAL AFRICAN AFFAIR WITHOUT  
FOREIGN PARTICIPATION.

2. HOUPHOUET REPORTEDLY HAS ALREADY CONTACTED BOKASSA  
POINTING OUT THAT NAPOLEAN'S CORONATION WAS STRICTLY FRENCH,  
WITH ONLY THE POPE THERE AS AN OUTSIDER. BOKASSA COULD DO THE  
SAME SINCE A PAPAL REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE COMING TO PRESIDE  
OVER HIS CORONATION MASS. HOUPHOUET HAS AGREED THAT THE IDEA  
OF AN EMPIRE IS AUTHENTICALLY AFRICAN (UNLIKE REPUBLICS WHICH  
HAVE BEEN IMPORTED FROM EUROPE). BOKASSA SHOULD  
CAPITALIZE ON THIS FACT BY MAKING THE CORONATION A  
LOCAL SHOW. THIS WOULD ALSO AVOID POSSIBLE  
PROBLEMS ABOUT THE LEVEL OF OUTSIDE ATTENDANCE. HOUPHOUET  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGUI 02080 281519Z

HAS PROMISED TO PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO BANGUI  
IN THE NEW YEAR IF BOKASSA GOES ALONG WITH THIS IDEA.  
AS YET BOKASSA HAS NOT MADE ANY RESPONSE.

3. COMMENT: THE FRENCH PLAN IS AN INGENIOUS WAY OUT  
OF THE CURRENT DIFFICULTIES OVER ATTENDANCE. GIVEN THE

FACT THAT MANY INVITATIONS HAVE ALREADY GONE OUT,  
IT MAY NOT BE EASY FOR BOKASSA TO MODIFY HIS PLANS EVEN  
IF HE IS FAVORABLY INCLINED TO HOUPHOUETS PROPOSAL.  
WE ARE THEREFORE SCEPTICAL THAT THE FRENCH SCHEME WILL SUCCEED.  
QUAINTON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* EXDIS

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CORONATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 28-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977BANGUI02080  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770353-0736  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** BANGUI  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t197709111/aaaafzne.tel  
**Line Count:** 71  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE  
**Message ID:** 4f4daa3a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1096320  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> srp 970911  
**Subject:** BOKASSA CORONATION  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, CT  
**To:** STATE INFO ABIDJAN MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/4f4daa3a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009